

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure at the end of the Specification as follows:

A method and machine (1) for packing a group (2) of cartons of cigarettes in a flat tubular package (3), whereby a first portion (30) and a second portion (31) of a suction gripping head (14) respectively engage a first lateral wall (4) of the flat tubular package (3), and a second lateral wall (5) of the flat tubular package (3) separated from the first lateral wall (4) by a respective preformed fold line (6); a rotational movement is then generated between the first and second portion (30, 31) of the suction gripping head (14) to rotate the first and second lateral wall (4, 5) engaged by the suction gripping head (14) with respect to each other, and so convert the flat tubular package (3) from the flat configuration to an open configuration; the group (2) of cartons of cigarettes is then pushed inside the open tubular package (3), and the suction gripping head (14) is moved to feed the open tubular package (3) to a sealing station (16) where the open tubular package (3) is sealed.

(Figure 2)